Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt[s] of omeprazole, [~~and of esomeprazole,~~] wherein:

R_1 is a linear [,] or branched C_1-C_{12}-alkyl group, or a cyclic C_3-C_{12}-alkyl group, [;] wherein the linear or branched C_1-C_{12} alkyl group [~~may be~~] is optionally substituted or interrupted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a cyclic C_3-C_6-alkyl group, [~~or~~] a cyclic C_3-C_6-alkylene group, [~~or with~~] a phenyl group, and a [~~or~~] phenylene group, [;] and wherein the cyclic C_3-C_6-alkyl group, [~~or~~] the cyclic C_3-C_6-alkylene group, [~~or~~] the phenyl group, or the phenylene group is optionally further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups; and

R_2 and R_3 are hydrogen.

2. (Currently amended) The $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt[s] of omeprazole [~~and of esomeprazole~~] according to claim 1, wherein [~~the~~] R_1 is [~~selected from~~] a linear [,] or branched C_1-C_6 -alkyl group, or a cyclic [~~C_1-C_6~~] C_3-C_6-alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C_1-C_6-alkyl group [~~may be~~] is optionally substituted or interrupted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a cyclic C_3-C_5-alkyl group, [~~or~~] a cyclic C_3-C_5-alkylene group, [~~or with~~] a phenyl group, or a phenylene group, [;] and wherein the cyclic C_3-C_5-alkyl group, [~~or~~] the cyclic C_3-C_5-alkylene group, [~~or~~] the phenyl group, or the phenylene group is optionally further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups.

3. (Currently amended) The $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt[s] of omeprazole [~~and of esomeprazole according to any of claims 1 or 2~~] according to claim 1, wherein [~~the~~] R_1 is [~~selected from~~] a linear, branched, or cyclic C_4-alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C_4-alkyl group [~~may be~~] is

optionally substituted or interrupted with a cyclic C_3-alkyl **group** or **a cyclic C_3-**alkylene group**,** **[;]** and wherein the cyclic **C_3-**alkyl **group** or **the cyclic C_3-**alkylene group is further substituted by 0, 1, 2, **or** 3 methyl groups.

4. (Currently amended) The $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt**[s]** of omeprazole **[~~and of esomeprazole according to any of claims 1 or 3~~] according to claim 1,** wherein **[~~$NHR_1R_2R_3^+$~~] the salt** has a pKa value equal **to** or **greater than about [~~above~~]** 10.

5. (Currently amended) The $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt**[s]** of omeprazole **[~~and of esomeprazole according to any of claims 1 or 4~~] according to claim 1,** wherein **[~~$NHR_1R_2R_3^+$~~] the salt** has a pKa value equal **to** or **greater than about** [above] 10.5.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended) The $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt**[s] of omeprazole** according to **[~~claim 6 characterized in that it~~] claim 1, wherein the salt** is the **[~~*tert* butylammoniumsalt~~] *tert*-butylammonium salt** of omeprazole.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt**[s] of omeprazole** according to **[~~any of the claims 1 to 9 characterized in that the compound~~] claim 1, wherein the salt** is crystalline.

11. (Currently amended) A process for preparation of a**n** $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt of omeprazole **[~~and of esomeprazole,~~]** according to any **one** of claims **1-5, 8, or 10, [~~1 to 10,~~]** which comprises the **[~~following~~]** steps **of**:

a) dissolving omeprazole **[~~or esomeprazole~~]** in an organic solvent;

b) adding a**n** $NR_1R_2R_3$ **[**-**]** compound and precipitating the desired salt; **and**

c) isolating and drying **[**~~of~~**]** the obtained salt of omeprazole **[**~~or esomeprazole~~**]**.

12. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 11**,** wherein the organic solvent is acetonitrile or *tert*-butyl methyl ether.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt of omeprazole **[**~~or esomeprazole~~**]** according to any **one** of claims **1-5, 8, or 10 [**~~1 to 10~~**]** as active ingredient**[**s**]** in association with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and optionally **[**~~other~~**]** **one or more additional** therapeutic ingredients.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A method for **the** treatment of a gastric acid related condition **[**~~which method comprised~~**]** **comprising** administering to a **[**~~subject~~**]** **patient** suffering from **[**~~said~~**]** **the** condition a therapeutically effective amount of the $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt **[**~~of omeprazole or esomeprazole~~**]** according to any **one** of claims **1-5, 8, or 10 [**~~1 to 10~~**]**.

18. (New) An $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole, wherein:

R_1 is a linear or branched C_1-C_{12}-alkyl group, or a cyclic C_3-C_{12}-alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C_1-C_{12} alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a cyclic C_3-C_6-alkyl group, a cyclic C_3-C_6-alkylene group, a phenyl group, and a phenylene group, and wherein the cyclic C_3-C_6-alkyl group, the cyclic C_3-C_6-alkylene group, the phenyl group, or the phenylene group is optionally

further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups; and

R_2 and R_3 are hydrogen.

19. (New) The $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein R_1 is a linear or branched C_1–C_6 -alkyl group or a cyclic C_3–C_6 -alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C_1–C_6 alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a cyclic C_3-C_5-alkyl group, a cyclic C_3-C_5-alkylene group, a phenyl group, or a phenylene group, and wherein the cyclic C_3-C_5-alkyl group, the cyclic C_3-C_5-alkylene group, the phenyl group, or the phenylene group is optionally further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups.

20. (New) The $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein R_1 is a linear, branched, or cyclic C_4-alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C_4-alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a cyclic C_3-alkyl group or a cyclic C_3-alkylene group, and wherein the cyclic C_3-alkyl group or the cyclic C_3-alkylene group is further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups.

21. (New) The $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein the salt has a pKa value equal to or greater than about 10.

22. (New) The $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein the salt has a pKa value equal to or greater than about 10.5.

23. (New) The $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein the salt is the *tert*-butylammonium salt of esomeprazole.

24. (New) The $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein the salt is crystalline.

25. (New) A process for preparation of an $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to any one of claims 18-24, which comprises the steps of:

a) dissolving esomeprazole in an organic solvent;

b) adding an $NR_1R_2R_3$ compound and precipitating the desired salt; and

c) isolating and drying the obtained salt of esomeprazole.

26. (New) The process according to claim 25, wherein the organic solvent is acetonitrile or *tert*-butyl methyl ether.

27. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to any one of claims 18-24 as active ingredient in association with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and optionally one or more additional therapeutic ingredients.

28. (New) A method for the treatment of a gastric acid related condition comprising administering to a patient suffering from the condition a therapeutically effective amount of the $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$ salt according to any one of claims 18-24.